

COUNTRY Romania REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1

TOPIC 1. Soviet Troops in the Timisoara Area and Arad  
2. Rumanian Troops in Timisoara and Oradea Mare

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT prior to November 1951

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1 DATE PREPARED 15 April 1952

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED] 25X1

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Soviet and Rumanian Troops in Timisoara.

1. Prior to November 1951, the barracks installations on the northern perimeter of Timisoara (R 16/T 91) were fully occupied by Soviet troops. They were located on either side of the highway to Arad (R 16/U 16) and were separated from this road by a board fence. That portion of the road which was within the billeting area was restricted to civilian traffic and was passed by the official bus line only. While riding this bus, prior to November 1951, source repeatedly saw about 50 tanks and an undetermined number of guns, including some large guns towed by trucks, in the billeting area west of the road to Sannicolaul Mare (Y 7/T 55) as well as east of the road to Arad. \*
2. In June 1951, construction work was started in the area on the south side of Ruschil Street, on the west side of the road to Lipova (R 16/U 34) and north of the main cemetery in the northern sector of Timisoara. Source saw the foundations of 6 or 7 large buildings in August 1951. A total of about 100 workmen and about 500 Rumanian soldiers were employed in the construction work there. They said that they built barracks installations.
3. Prior to November 1951, an ammunition depot guarded by military sentries was located on the premises of an old Rumanian ammunition depot on the north side of Kimmel Street (Jonescu de la Brad). The depot was subterranean and the topside was planted with trees. The way from the so-called factory railroad station to the installation ran north-northeast and required about 15 minutes. Dwellings were located around the depot. Continuous traffic of trucks was observed in the area of the installation.

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4. Prior to November 1951, most of the Rumanian soldiers seen in Timisoara were engaged in the construction of the new barracks installations; only very few soldiers were seen in the streets of the city. In the summer and fall of 1951, Soviet tanks and trucks towing guns were repeatedly observed moving towards the Jagdwald (woods), where a 14-day field exercise, including exercises with gas masks, was held in the summer of 1951. The exercise, always identified by the heavy noise of battle, was discontinued every second or third day. One train with material for the Soviet troops arrived at the factory station about each month. \*
5. Prior to November 1951, about 20 low wooden buildings occupied by Rumanian soldiers were located in a large meadow on Sagului Street and near Cercului Street south of the city. Several new buildings were under construction near this compound; the brickwork of about 60 percent of them had been completed in October 1950. About 12 SP artillery guns, 6 guns, including AA guns and guns probably of heavy calibers, and sidocar motorcycles were last seen in this area in October 1951. Soviet soldiers exclusively were observed with the weapons and vehicles. Similar tanks and guns were also seen on the road to Lipova north of Timisoara in August 1951. The SP artillery guns had bogie wheels and track-supporting rollers, a box-like body and a thick-barreled gun with muzzle brake. The guns observed included a type of about 120 mm on a one-axle carriage with solid tires. \*
6. Young Rumanian soldiers were last seen in a multi-story brick building in the area between the roads to Lipova and to Arad north of Timisoara in mid-August 1951. \*
7. In 1950, a Soviet drill ground, marked by off-limits signs, was established north of the railroad line to Carpinis and about 5 km west of Timisoara. Firing exercises with live ammunition were held there.

#### Soviet Troops in Arad.

8. Prior to May 1951, Soviet troops were seen in the former Cavalry Barracks west of the main railroad station in Arad. From 40 to 50 armored vehicles of an undetermined type were observed moving out of this barracks installation. They ran on wheels and tracks and had armored lids at their front side. Source referred to these vehicles as Katyushka. They used to go to the area northeast of the city for field training, but they were also repeatedly seen in the training area west of the Aradul Nou borough, south of the Muresul River. \*\*
9. Prior to the fall of 1951, up to 30 T-34 tanks were repeatedly observed moving out of the fortress in Arad. These tanks practiced in the area south-west of Aradul Nou. \*\* In September 1951, concrete construction work was started at the foundations of the piers of the highway bridge between Arad and the Aradul Nou borough. Local residents said that this bridge needed reinforcement. Soviet tanks passing this bridge usually moved very slowly and only individually.
10. Another barracks installation, which source referred to as the Artillery Barracks, was located on the south side of the road to Pecica, approximately opposite to the former Cavalry Barracks in the northern sector of Arad. Source learned that Rumanian soldiers were quartered there, but never saw any of them. \*\*

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Rumanian Troops in Oradea Mare.

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11. About 29 October 1951, source visited a 21-year-old relative who had been inducted as a private in a Rumanian unit in Oradea Mare (R 4C/P 65) on 3 November 1950. The unit included many young Rumanian soldiers and was quartered in a new barracks installation which was still under construction. Source did not recall the location of this installation, but stated that it was a 10-minute streetcar ride from the main railroad station; the streetcar ran past the installation. He was allowed to enter the installation and saw guns, trucks and armored vehicles there; the guns and armored vehicles were covered with straw and parked in the rear of the billeting area. Source saw about 15 long-barreled guns of about 120 mm, each on two large wheels with pneumatic tires, and 5 armored vehicles which had broad tracks and mounted a long-barreled gun. [ ] wore a green-brown uniform consisting of long trousers and a tunic with epaulets of uniform cloth having golden crossbraids as insignia of rank. A small red flag with hammer, sickle and star was worn on the upper left sleeve.

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\* [ ] Comment. The report confirms sizable Soviet units, apparently components of a tank division, stationed in Timisoara. Besides these Soviet troops, only small Rumanian units, possibly of the Rumanian Labor Service, are located in Timisoara. [ ]

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\*\* [ ] Comment. The report confirms previous information according to which a Soviet tank unit is stationed in Arad. The vehicles referred to as Katyushka seem to be armored personnel carriers. According to the [ ] report, no Rumanian troops except militia personnel are stationed in Arad. [ ]

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